

a comminuted cellulosic fibrous material treatment vessel operatively connected to said outlet to receive comminuted cellulosic fibrous material from said outlet; and a readily replaceable protective baffle disposed above said shear edge to protect said shear edge from large particles and tramp material.

Claims 3 and 8, line 1 of each, change "2" to -- 1 --.

Claim 7, ~~line 1~~, change "6" to -- 1 --.

Claim 22, line 1, change "21" to -- 17 --.

**REMARKS**

By the present amendment allowed claims 6 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1 (and an error in step (e) thereof has been corrected), and allowed claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 17. No other independent claims aside from now allowable claims 1 and 17 remain. Therefore it is believed that the application is in clear condition for allowance and early passage to issue is earnestly solicited.

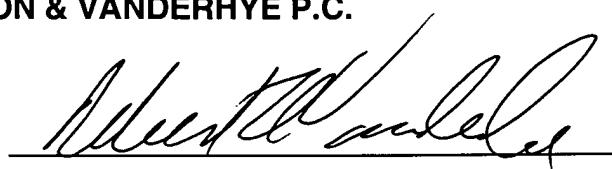
Should any small matters remain outstanding it is requested that the undersigned attorney be given a call so that such matters may be worked out and the application placed in condition for allowance without the necessity of another Action and amendment.

BOWLING et al  
Serial No. 09/031,065

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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